

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A used article quotation method that provides a user computer with a quote for acceptance of a used article from a user, said used article quotation method comprising the steps of:

(a) causing a server computer, which is connected with the user computer in a communicable manner, to receive a quotation request of the used article and information on components included in the used article as quotation requirement information, which is required for quotation of the used article, from the user computer, to refer to a components quote table to read out a price of each component included in the used article, and to determine a trade-in quote for the acceptance of the used article that is a trade-in of the used article with purchase of a product and a cash-out quote for the acceptance of the used article that is a cash-out of the used article without purchase of a product, based on the quotation requirement information the read-out prices of components, the trade-in quote being higher than the cash-out quote; and

(b) causing the server computer to send quotation information a quotation window, which includes the trade-in quote and the cash-out quote determined in said step (a), and a cash-out option selected by the user to request a cash-out at the cash-out quote and a trade-in option selected by the user to request a trade-in at the trade-in quote, to the user computer,

wherein said step (b) causes the server computer to determine whether the cash-out quote, which has been determined based on the quotation requirement information, is in a preset allowable cash-out value range and,

when it is determined that the cash-out quote is out of the preset allowable cash-out value range, to send the quotation information including an acceptance of the used article at the trade-in quote and excluding the cash-out quote to the user computer

when it is determined that the cash-out quote is within the preset allowable cash-out value range, causes the server computer to send the quotation window including the trade-in quote, the cash-out quote, the trade-in option in a selectable manner, and the cash-out option in a selectable manner, and

when it is determined that the cash-out quote is below the preset allowable cash-out value range, causes the server computer to send the quotation window including the trade-in quote, the trade-in option in a selectable manner, and the cash-out option in an unselectable manner, and excluding the cash-out quote.

Claim 2 (Canceled).

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): A used article quotation method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said step (a) causes the server computer either to determine first the cash-out quote and then the trade-in quote based on the predetermined cash-out quote in such a manner that the trade-in quote is higher than the cash-out quote, or to determine first the trade-in quote and then the cash-out quote based on the predetermined trade-in quote in such a manner that the trade-in quote is higher than the cash-out quote.

Claim 4 (Original): A used article quotation method in accordance with claim 3, wherein said step (a) causes the server computer either to determine the cash-out quote and compute the trade-in quote as a function of the predetermined cash-out quote, or to determine the trade-in quote and compute the cash-out quote as a function of the predetermined trade-in quote.

Claim 5 (Original): A used article quotation method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said step (a) causes the server computer to set a minimum value and a maximum value of the cash-out quote and a maximum value and a minimum value of the trade-in quote.

Claim 6 (Canceled).

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A used article quotation method in accordance with ~~claim 6~~ claim 1, said used article quotation method further comprising the steps of:

(c) in response to receipt of the user's selection of the trade-in option from the user computer after said step (b), causing the server computer to store a trade-in specification, which includes the quotation requirement information and the trade-in quote, into a storage unit; and

(d) in response to receipt of a product purchase request from the user computer, causing the server computer to read the trade-in specification stored in said storage unit, to send the read-out trade-in specification to the user computer, and to ask the user whether to effectuate a trade-in according to the trade-in specification.

Claims 8-10 (Canceled).

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A used article quotation system that provides a user computer with a quote for acceptance of a used article from a user, said used article quotation system comprising:

a components quote table in which component information as information on components included in a used article is mapped to prices;

a quote determination module that receives a quotation request of the used article and the component information of the used article as quotation requirement information, which is required for quotation of the used article, from the user computer, refers to the components quote table to read out a price of each component included in the used article, and determines a trade-in quote for the acceptance of the used article that is a trade-in of the used article with purchase of a product and a cash-out quote for the acceptance of the used article that is a cash-out of the used article without purchase of a product, based on the quotation requirement information the read-out prices of components, the trade-in quote being higher than the cash-out quote; and

a quotation information transmission module that sends quotation information a quotation window, which includes the trade-in quote and the cash-out quote determined by said quote determination module, and a cash-out option selected by the user to request a cash-out at the cash-out quote and a trade-in option selected by the user to request a trade-in at the trade-in quote, to the user computer,

wherein said quotation information transmission module causes said quote determination module to determine whether the cash-out quote, which has been determined based on the quotation requirement information, is in a preset allowable cash-out value range and,

~~when it is determined that the cash-out quote is out of the preset allowable cash-out value range, to send the quotation information including an acceptance of the used article at the trade-in quote and excluding the cash-out quote to the user computer, and~~

when it is determined that the cash-out quote is within the preset allowable cash-out value range, causes said quote determination module to send the quotation window including the trade-in quote, the cash-out quote, the trade-in option in a selectable manner, and the cash-out option in a selectable manner, and

when it is determined that the cash-out quote is below the preset allowable cash-out value range, causes said quote determination module to send the quotation window including

the trade-in quote, the trade-in option in a selectable manner, and the cash-out option in an unselectable manner, and excluding the cash-out quote, and

wherein each of the modules in the used article quotation system is implemented as machine instructions stored on a computer-readable storage medium for execution by a processor.

Claims 12-30 (Canceled).